

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 63

December 2016

No. 10



Calendar

Thurs., Nov. 24	Thanksgiving; no trash pickup; Town Office closed	Mon., Dec. 5	Monthly yard waste collection
Fri., Nov. 25	Town Office closed; pick up <i>Bugle</i> at PO	Fri., Dec. 9	34th Annual Do-It-Yourself Car-ol-fest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (pp 2, 8)
Sat., Nov. 26	No Farmer's Market	Sat., Dec. 10	Farmer's Market, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm; Santa Comes to Garrett Park, Town Hall, 3 pm (pp 3, 8)
Mon., Nov. 28	Art at Penn Place, Sallie Lowenstein, illustrations, on display through Dec. 17 (see p 6)	Mon., Dec. 12	Town Council meeting, Town Hall: dessert with our state government representatives, 8 pm; meeting 8:30 pm (see p 3)
Thurs., Dec. 1	Neighbors Helping Neighbors committee meeting, Town Office, 10 am (see p 6); GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Tues., Dec. 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm
Fri., Dec. 2	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 2-8 pm; Kensington Antiques Row Open House, 7-9 pm (p 6)	Wed., Dec. 14	<i>Bugle</i> deadline
Sat., Dec. 3	Farmer's Market, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm; Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 10 am-5 pm	Thurs., Dec. 15	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sun., Dec. 4	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 12-4 pm; Art at Penn Place, "Meet the Artist" reception for Sallie Lowenstein, 3-5 pm (p 6)	Fri., Dec. 16	GP Film Society, Town Hall: <i>Strictly Ballroom</i> : drinks, 7 pm; dinner, 7:45 pm; film 8:30 pm (see pp 2, 5)
		Sat., Dec. 17	Farmer's Market, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm; GIVES, PO lobby, 9 am-12 pm
		Fri., Dec. 23	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> at PO

Oxford Intersections

It was a pleasantly chilly autumn night, much too cloudy for any moon, let alone a supermoon, when the Garrett Park Town Council held its November meeting. There was a good crowd.

This was a gathering almost entirely about stop signs. A number of Garrett Parkers on Oxford Street have asked that the town add these to some of their intersections as a safety measure. The intersection of Oxford with Kenilworth, just before the right turn into Garrett Park Elementary School, was a particular focus of concern.

Dick Pratt, a retired traffic engineer, got the discussion going: "I was one of the citizens at the Town Council meeting on stop signs a few weeks ago, and one of the things that came up very strongly was that an obvious key objective was safety. This was the overarching issue. I'd like to make the point that the maximum number of regulatory signs does not necessarily equate to maximum safety. There's a tipping point; if you put up too many signs they tend to be less adhered to.

They are seen as too much regulation. Indeed, if there hasn't been any demonstrated probable risk in terms of actual accidents or fatalities, then 'do no harm' by not doing too much might be the best approach.

"Adding stop signs at the Oxford intersection to the school might be a problem, because of the rules under which the safety patrols operate. The safety patrol kids are supposed to not let anyone cross when a car presents a danger. When there's no stop sign on Kenilworth, if a car is coming down the street that's pretty obviously a clear and present danger. But it gets more complicated if the car, in the mind of the safety patrol, is supposed to stop, or is sitting at a stop sign. You're asking a lot of judgment of a fifth grader to ascertain what's going to happen with a car that has a stop sign between you and it. We've had meetings with school and county representatives on this intersection and that seems to be a feeling that is shared.

(continued next page)

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“We could have a chicane—a narrowing of the street of some sort. But feedback from the town’s engineer is that it would help only marginally. Maybe it’s an ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’ situation.”

A number of parents in attendance now described how dicey that intersection feels when you cross it with your school-age children.

“It’s not unusual for cars to accelerate there,” said one parent, “trying to beat us as we try to cross.”

Another said, “The intersection has gotten worse over the years. Current conditions include cars that will stop when they see somebody nearby and will wait until you cross, and others that will stop and wave at you to go across. Others stop for a second and then immediately go. Others hesitate—and then they don’t stop. Others drive straight through. You also have people going the wrong way on Oxford.

“If we added two stop signs, we’d give the safety patrol as well as the adult staff a level of predictability; most of the cars will stop. And don’t forget buses. Buses make things worse—it’s hard for people to see around them. My take on this is that we are in desperate need of a stop sign.”

Barbara Jackson suggested that children get to school via the sidewalk at the Parkside Apartments parking lot adjacent to the school. However, the school currently doesn’t let students do that.

Jane McClintock noted that “School size has doubled in the past four years. Over 800 kids and many more buses and cars are the result. There are many more distracted drivers. Cars aren’t obeying the law, and something needs to be done.”

Jane pointed out that at the very least we need to repaint the intersection.

Another parent argued for a stop sign plus a sign stating that it’s state law to stop for pedestrians in the intersection.

Summing up the direction of the discussion, Mayor Benjamin said that we seem to want to do the following at the Oxford school crossing:

- Add stop signs on both sides of the crosswalk
- Repaint the crosswalk
- Add a “State Law: Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk” sign

We would of course need to talk to the school about any such changes.

Hans now moved that we do all of this. His motion passed.

Margaret Soltan

Strictly Fun

On December 16, the Garrett Park Film Society is hosting a holiday party with a cocktail hour and film, *Strictly Ballroom* (1992, Australian, PG), guaranteed to lift your spirits. Written and directed by Baz Luhrmann, *Strictly Ballroom* is campy, romantic, and just plain fun.

Before-dinner drinks begin at 7 pm and include martinis, Prosecco, and gin/vodka tonic, as well as the usual wine, beer, and soda. A special dinner featuring filet mignon and a vegetarian alternative will be served at 7:45 pm with the film starting at 8:30 pm. Mark your calendar *now*.

Admission to the film is free for GPFS members and those signing up for the 2017 series. Others pay \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door. Cost of drinks ranges from \$1 to \$5. Members and new members for 2017 will receive a chit for one \$5 drink. Dinner, including dessert, is \$15.

See you there! (At the Town Hall, of course!)

Come Sing!

On Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm, at the Town Hall, join us at the 34th Annual Do-It-Yourself Carolfest (sponsored by the GP Women’s Club).

This always popular tradition fills the Town Hall fast; get there early for a good seat! Doug Mader leads us in song, with piano accompaniment by Mee Knystautas.

Bring your voices and a little something to share: bite-sized goodies and savories welcome!

Warm Holiday Wishes!

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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by e-mail, mail, or hand to *Bugle* staff. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager’s Notes

December Town Council meeting. The meeting on Monday, December 12, will include a dinner with our state government representatives. Residents are invited for dessert at 8 pm, when you can meet and ask questions of the officials. The Town Council meeting will begin at 8:30 pm.

Leaf removal. Just a reminder that leaf removal will continue through the end of December. Motorists, please use a little extra caution around the huge piles of leaves throughout town. Parents, please be extra mindful of vehicular and bike traffic, and discourage your children from playing in the curbside leaf piles.

Holiday gifts. If residents would like to make a holiday gift to the six men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail your check to the Town of Garrett Park, PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Garrett Park with “Holiday Fund” written as the memo. The town will send each contributor an acknowledgement and will see that the fund is properly distributed the week before Christmas.

Holiday collection of trash, recycling, and yard waste. Thanksgiving Day trash collection will be on the following Monday (November 28). Yard waste will be collected only on the first Monday in the coming three months (December 5, January 2, and February 7). We return to weekly yard waste collection in March.

Holiday sing-along, 7:30 pm, Friday, December 9, Town Hall. We hope you’ll come with your family for this festive annual event! Light refreshments will be served.

Santa’s visit, Saturday, December 10, Town Hall. Bring the children to a sing-along with George Oakley, 3 pm, in preparation for Santa’s arrival at 3:45.

Large item pickup. The next large item pickup will be on Saturday, January 7, 2017.

Volunteer opportunities. The town is asking for volunteers to serve on the Archives Committee. If

you think you might be interested, please call the Town Office for more details on the committee’s activities.

Office closure. The Town Office will be closed on November 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The town staff and I wish everyone a very happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Holiday Decorating Contest

Each year the Garrett Park Women’s Club sponsors a Holiday Decorating Contest in the spirit of fun and joy, which will be judged at some time during the week before Christmas (hint: December 20), depending on the weather. Garrett Park is more beautiful every year.

Here are the categories for the awards: Best House, Green Award, Best Door/Window, Best Porch, Most Creative, Best Yard, Kids’ Award, Most Charming, Honorable Mention.

Winners will have a special sign placed on their lawn for all to see. Be sure to tour Garrett Park and view the wonder of our beautiful neighborhood. Signs will be left in place till January 6.

Santa’s Visit

He’s making his list...and coming to Garrett Park Town Hall on Saturday, December 10 (sponsored by the GP Women’s Club).

3:00 pm: Sing along with George Oakley, Garrett Park neighbor and entertainer of all ages!

3:45 pm: Santa makes his appearance! Bring your list and tell Santa what you’d like for Christmas! This is a great photo opportunity.

Santa departs once he visits with all children in line, so please arrive early to have time to visit!

As always, snack donations (bite-sized goodies like cookies, chips, bars, veggies) are welcome. If you’d like to help coordinate this event, please contact Jean Horan.



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Citizens Association Notes

At September's Newcomers Welcome, I had several people ask me, "What exactly is it that the Citizens Association (CA) does?" It's a fair question, and I thought I would use this month's *Bugle* article to provide some answers. The two most obvious things the CA does is (1) publish the *Bugle* that you are reading and (2) run events throughout the year. Our most visible events are the Town Dinner, July 4th BBQ, Newcomers Welcome, and Spooky Woods. We also host and moderate the town's candidate nominations and candidate forum each election cycle. Finally, we host approximately monthly meetings on topics of interest to the town. This year, those meetings have covered storm water management, school overcrowding, college prep, and fracking in Maryland. Financially, we are able to run these events because we collect dues (see below), have wonderful advertisers in the *Bugle*, sell food at the July 4th BBQ, and, honestly, because we have generous members who don't submit receipts. The truth is, we run in the red each and every year.

That's a nuts and bolts explanation of what we do and how we spend the money. When I first took on the role of Vice President, our very own Todd Harris (the previous VP) had a better description of what the CA does: "We throw parties." I sincerely hope that this year's CA leadership (Sean Conlan, Michael Lutkenhouse, Bridget Silverman, and Darshini Trivedi) has lived up to that standard. I hope we threw some good parties.

After 4 years on the CA "board," I am stepping down as President. If you are interested in throwing parties and being a voice for the town of Garrett Park, please consider serving on the board. If you are interested or know someone who would be perfect for the job, please get in touch with me, Sean Conlan, CA President (outgoing).

Upcoming: Town Dinner. Save the date: January 28. The 2017 theme is "Our National Parks: Tales of the Outdoors!"

Ever been trapped in your tent by a bear? Chased by a moose? We want to hear about it

to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Sean Conlan or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2016 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Sean Conlan.

CA Meeting on Fracking

On October 26, the monthly CA monthly meeting updated GP Town Councilmembers, residents, and friends about ongoing efforts to permanently ban fracking in Maryland. The purpose of the presentation was to educate us all about this vital issue and discuss the importance of why municipalities like our town should participate in supporting a statewide ban. "Fracking" is a controversial technique for extracting petroleum and natural gas.

As a retired physician and Board member of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR), our speaker, Dr. Gina Angiola, summarized her thoughts:

"Given that no regulatory framework can adequately protect public health and the environment, it is vital that the state of Maryland ban the destructive method of gas development commonly known as 'fracking' before it starts here, as permits could be issued as soon as October 2017. Fracking has been linked to numerous negative health impacts in neighboring states, ranging from premature births and asthma exacerbations to increased hospitalizations for cardiac illness and more. It has damaged water supplies and soil and air quality; caused significant earthquakes in many states; and adds potent greenhouse gases to the atmosphere at the very time that we need to be reducing fossil fuel emissions to zero as quickly as possible. A ban on fracking in Maryland is the only rational option for our state."

If you are interested in further information, have questions, or want to advocate for the GP Town Council to support a statewide ban, please contact Rana Koll-Mandel.

Fall into Yoga

Tuesdays at Garrett Park Town Hall

Through 5:30–6:25 pm Beginner/refresher/gentle
Dec. 20 6:30–7:45 pm Kundalini yoga
(all welcome)

Classes include a combination of simple yet challenging physical movement, breathing exercises, music, chanting, and meditation.

Yoga improves immunity, sleep, and self-healing.

For questions, email Liz at gayatrimantra.liz@gmail.com

Visit lilylotusyoga.com

Garrett Park Film Society, 2017 Series

January 20, *Tangerines*, 2013, Estonia/Georgia.
In this antiwar film, farmers in a war-torn region of Georgia try to harvest their tangerines despite the conflict. When two wounded men are left behind after a skirmish, one of the farmers takes them in—but they are from opposite sides.

February 10, *Learning to Drive*, 2015, UK/USA.
A Manhattan writer and her Sikh driving instructor both have marriage problems. Despite their differences, each is strengthened by their interaction.

March 17, *Wild Tales*, 2014, Argentina. Dark comedy made up of six vignettes, linked by the theme of revenge. Oscar nominee.

April 28, *Harvey*, 1950, USA. Adapted from a hit Broadway play (and Pulitzer Prize winner), this comedy stars James Stewart as Elwood P. Dowd, whose inebriated antics begin causing problems when he says that he sees a “pooka” (a mischievous Irish spirit), in the form of a six-foot rabbit named Harvey.

June 16, *Chef*, 2014, USA. Foodie comedy: After a career crisis, a chef quits his restaurant job, buys a food truck, and sets off across country. Film includes lots of cameo performances.

September 8, *Seymour: An Introduction*, 2015, USA. Documentary: Director Ethan Hawke explores the life and work of Seymour Bernstein, who

began playing and teaching the piano when very young. A film about the study and practice of music.

October 20, *Our Little Sister*, 2016, Japan. Three adult sisters, who have lived with their grandmother since being abandoned by both parents, meet their thirteen-year-old sister for the first time at their father’s funeral, and decide to take her in.

December 15, *Memento*, 2000, USA. Christopher Nolan directed this thriller about a man who cannot retain new memories, yet attempts to solve the murder of his wife—the last thing he remembers. The story line moves forward and backward in time as he pursues answers.



Garrett Park Film Society, 2017 Series

Yes! I want to be a member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Send notices to (check one) e-mail ☐ U.S. post ☐ both ☐

Check the level of membership you want. All levels include admission to all films and coupons that can be used for soft drinks, popcorn, and nuts (when available). Higher memberships receive more coupons.

Make check payable to “Garrett Park Film Society” or “GPFS.”

Mail form and check to Suzanne Grefsheim, GPFS Treasurer, Box 175, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

- ☐ **Gaffer, Single** \$30 (5 coupons)
- ☐ **Gaffer, Family** \$50 (10 coupons)
- ☐ **Screenwriter** \$100 (20 coupons)
- ☐ **Film Sponsor** \$250 (20 coupons; reserved front row seats for sponsored film; acknowledgement of your support)
- ☐ **Director** \$300 (20 coupons; one glass of wine or beer per film)
- ☐ **Producer** \$500 (20 coupons; free dinner for two for each film shown in 2017)

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

♪ Congratulations to two local soccer stars! They are Ally Holden (goalie, 10th grade) and Kevin Salvatore (midfielder, 12th grade). Their Walter Johnson soccer teams won (respectively) the

Girls Maryland Soccer State Championship and the Boys Maryland Soccer State Championship (Class 4A). Way to go, Garrett Park athletes!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you to the residents who completed and submitted the questionnaire included in last month's *Bugle*. We will finish the survey of results in December and hope in the meantime that those of you who set aside the green questionnaire sheet stapled to the November issue will submit it to the box on the wooden table in the Post Office or to Elizabeth in the Town Office.

The next meeting of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors committee will be at 10 am on Thursday, December 1, in the Town Office at Penn Place. All are welcome!

Greening Report

This month's green banner is sponsored by Margaret Goldsborough and Max Faulkner of Keswick Street in honor of the Kensington Antique Row Holiday Open House on Friday, December 2, to which all in Garrett Park are cordially invited. The shops up and down Antique Row all reopen from 7 until 9 pm the first Friday each December and offer refreshments and merriment for friends and neighbors. Many thanks to you both!

If anyone else would like to support the green in future months, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45, with "greening" in the memo line, and mail it to the Citizens Association at Box 456. We'd be most grateful.

If you would like your sponsorship to honor something or someone, please enclose a note to that effect with your check. If possible, please also send the information to editor Barbara Collier by e-mail (gp.bugle.editor@gmail.com); phone, USPS, or a note on the door would also work... check the boxed masthead (p 2) or your directory for details.

Art at Penn Place

If you haven't yet visited the gallery to see Robert LeMar's wonderful paintings, there's still time to stop by! Robert's exhibit will be on display through November 26.

Our December artist is Sallie Lowenstein, a painter, sculptor, book designer, author, and illustrator. Ms. Lowenstein got an early start on adventure at 8 years old, when she traveled around the world with her family on prop planes through 17 countries in Asia and Europe. These and subsequent journeys color her artworks and books. She believes that any work of art, be it a painting, sculpture, or book, should leave the viewer with an aftertaste of wonder.

In Ms. Lowenstein's case, she sees the illustrations for her books as she writes, whether novels or picture books. The act of telling the story is not finished until she has illustrated it, and the illustrations are not finished until she has picked the paper, set the type, placed the artwork, and designed the cover.

Ms. Lowenstein's upcoming show will be primarily made up of illustrations from her novels, picture books, and hand-bound editions. However, it is centered around a new book, *Only Four More Days*, which is based on Tim and Linda Derstine's organic market that was held for so many years right outside this gallery.

Please join us for Ms. Lowenstein's Meet-the-Artist reception and book-signing on Sunday, December 4, from 3 to 5 pm. Her show will be available at the gallery for viewing from November 28 to December 17.

Reminder: if you are part of the Facebook community, please be sure to visit and "like" our gallery page at "Art at Penn Place"! It is a great way to keep up with gallery events and get a special peek at the art on exhibit.



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Letter from the Mayor

We have just completed our national elections amid much turmoil, controversy, and concern about the process. This has made me think about how we carry out our town elections, which several of us have been reviewing since the last election in May. We have found inconsistencies and contradictions in our charter, ordinances, and procedures that need to be corrected. Further, the charter should contain only the broad policies, the ordinances should state the criteria for the process to implement those policies, and the procedures should provide the detail necessary to carry out the election consistent with the charter and ordinances. That is not the case at present.

Below are some of the principles that I believe should underlie a revision of our authorizing documents:

1. The election judges assure the integrity of the voting process and that the election is fair, honest, and an accurate representation of the votes cast.
2. The judges are responsible for all aspects of conducting the elections, consistent with the charter, ordinances, and procedures, and make all decisions necessary to determine who may vote, what ballots are valid, and how ballots are tabulated.
3. The judges assure that only qualified voters cast votes.
4. The judges assure the integrity of the ballot box, if used, or other vote recording and tabulation mechanisms.
5. There is no provision for poll workers in our charter or ordinances, although we use them extensively. The chief judge should be able to request the Town Manager to recruit and appoint poll workers to assist in staffing the polls and counting the votes.
6. The hours that we keep the polls open are not those specified in the charter. The polls should be open 7 am to 7:30 pm.
7. In addition to universal registration per county rules, there should be town registration (including residents who are not citizens of the United States) available at any time that the Town Office or the polls are open, including election day.
8. Absentee ballots should be available at any time that the Town Office or the polls are open, including election day.
9. To encourage voting, all persons claiming to be eligible should be allowed to vote. If there is any question about their qualifications, they should be issued a provisional ballot, which would allow determination of eligibility at a later time to indicate whether the vote should be included.
10. There should be clarification of the rules that preclude campaigning or attempts to influence (or intimidate) voters in and near the polling place.
11. We should support the ability for qualified voters to be poll watchers. Policies for observing voting need to be developed and should include the concept that poll watchers may observe voting but not interfere with or make requests of poll workers or voters other than to challenge qualifications of potential voters.
12. There are contradictory financial disclosure provisions which, if enforced, would disqualify candidates nominated by petition who file by the petition deadline. That needs to be modified.
13. Announcement of preliminary results could be permitted when the determination can be made that outstanding absentee and provisional ballots would not change the results. Certification of results would occur only after all absentee ballots are counted and provisional ballots issues are resolved. The results could be made available through e-mailing, physical posting, and the web site.
14. This would delay the current tradition of announcement at Town Hall immediately followed by a swearing-in of the winning candidates. The swearing-in would occur only after certification.

I am putting these suggestions forward to encourage discussion and debate, with the objective of amending the charter and ordinances in time for the next election. They do not represent the conclusions of any group, nor are they intended to be the final answer to the issues raised. They are a first step in a process.

Peter Benjamin

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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Check out Jeremy in the community at: KindinMd.org



Don't miss!

Thirty-fourth
Annual Do-It-Yourself
Carolfest
Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm
Town Hall
Sacred and secular music to sing

Followed by

Cantatas on his Noddy



Garrett Park Town Hall 10 Dec 2016
Sing along with George Oakley 3pm
Santa arrives 3:45pm
Hot Chocolate & Cookies
Candy Canes